BSL - Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (evergreen phase)

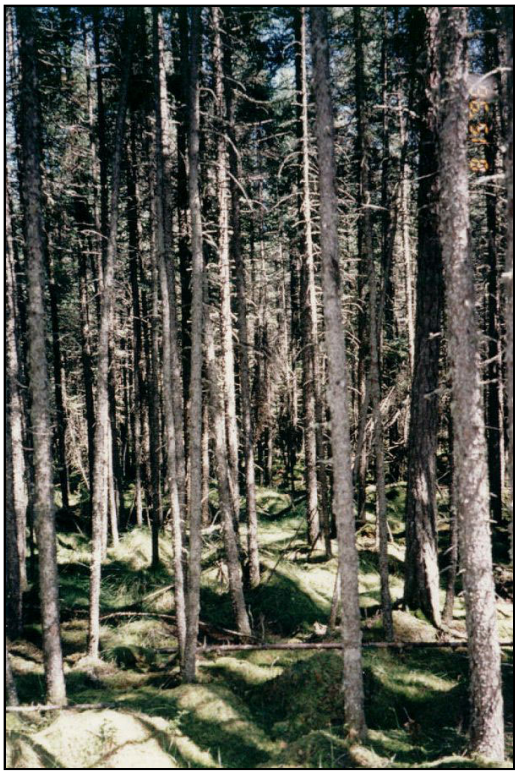


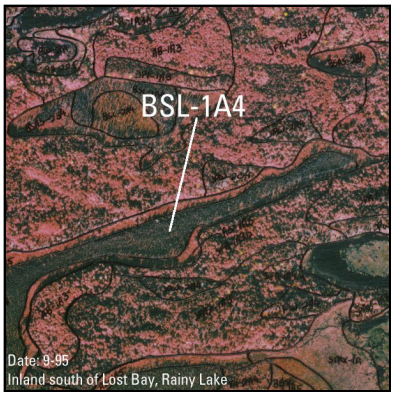
Photo credit: Kevin Hop

Photo credit: Kevin Hop

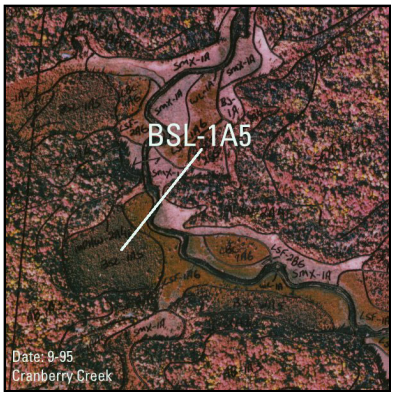
The Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (evergreen phase) Map Unit (BSL) represents, in part, the Black Spruce / Labrador Tea Poor Swamp Association. BSL is the evergreen phase of this association and is dominated by black spruce with <25% tamarack in the canopy. BSL was originally thought to be the sole representation for this association. However, the BST Map Unit (mixed phase) was later joined, making two distinct map unit phases for the association (see description for BST).

This association is found in confined basins, on the upland margins of large peatlands, in poorly drained depressions in bedrock, and removed from the water's edge on peatland shorelines. It is also mapped within slow moving drainage courses. The substrate is deep, acidic Sphagnum peat. The water regime is saturated.

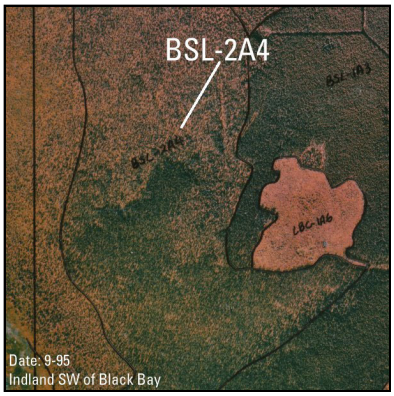
BSL-1A4 appears as a dark blue-magenta with a fine texture. This photo shows the black spruce within drainage course. The orange and smooth texture surrounding the black spruce is alder shrubs and is separated from the BSL polygon. The canopy is closed and is evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range.



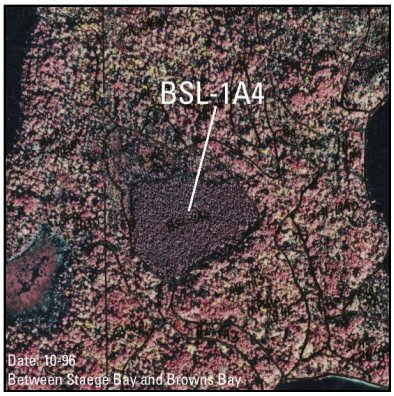
BSL - Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (evergreen phase)



BSL-1A5 appears as deep rust with a fine texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 0.5-5 meter range. The photo was taken in September 1995.



BSL-2A4 appears as a mottled dark olive-green and orange. The dark olive-green is the black spruce and the orange is ericaceous dwarf-shrubs. Although clumps of closed canopy are present, the general canopy of the trees throughout the polygon is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The photo was taken in September 1995.



BSL-1A4 appears as blue-magenta and moderately fine textured. The bluish appearance and slightly feathered texture may be due to the presence of scattered tamarack. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The photo was taken in October 1996.

Area Report for BSL Map Unit
Polygons: 704
Hectares: 2,937
Acres: 7,257
Average size: 4 hectares, 10 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for BSL and BST Map Units
The Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (evergreen phase) Map Unit was assessed with the Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (mixed phase) Map Unit. BSL and BST were assessed at 77% producers' accuracy (confidence interval 69-85%) and 89% users' accuracy (confidence interval 82-96%). Errors in producers' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Units BSAS and TA. Users' accuracy is considered adequate as mapped.

BST - Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (mixed phase)

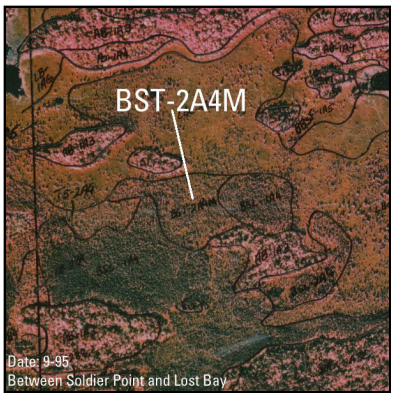
The Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (mixed phase) Map Unit (BST) represents, in part, the Black Spruce / Labrador Tea Poor Swamp Association. BST is the mixed phase of this association that has 25-75% black spruce and tamarack in the canopy.

BST was originally thought to represent the Black Spruce - Tamarack Poor Swamp Association (an association not used for this project), but upon further analysis of the vegetation data, it was determined that BST better represents the Black Spruce / Labrador Tea Poor Swamp Association, sharing it with the BSL Map Unit (evergreen phase).

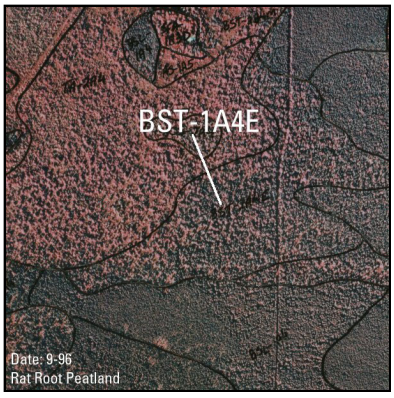
The dominance/co-dominance modifier was originally used for BST mapping. Even though the association it now represents is classified as evergreen forest and not mixed evergreen-deciduous forest, the modifier was preserved to show the amounts of tamarack.

This association is found in confined basins, on the upland margins of large peatlands, in poorly drained depressions in bedrock, and removed from the water's edge on peatland shorelines. It is also mapped within slow moving drainage courses. The substrate is deep, acidic Sphagnum peat. The water regime is saturated. Ancillary photographs from 1988 were used to help distinguish signature differences between tamarack and black spruce.

BST-2A4M appears as a mottled dark gray-green and orange with both fine and feathered textures in this photo. The dark gray-green is the conifer trees, and the orange is alder shrubs and ericaceous dwarf-shrubs. The canopy of the trees is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The black spruce and tamarack share dominance. The photo was taken in September 1995.

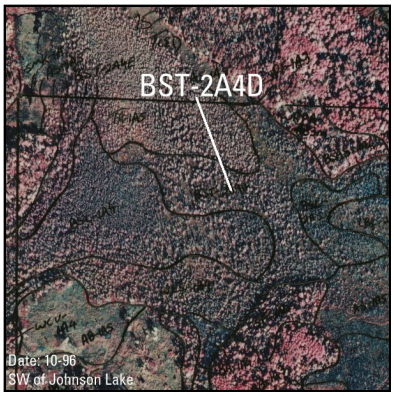


BST-1A4E appears as blue-magenta with pink dots, and a fine and somewhat rough texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The black spruce dominates over the tamarack in this polygon. The photo was taken in September 1996.

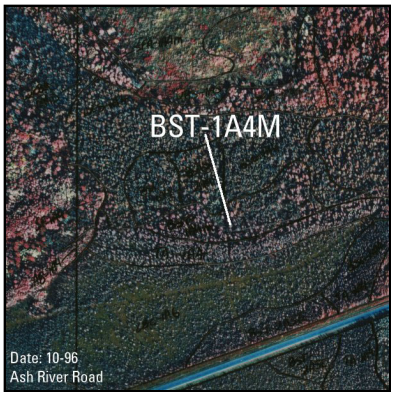


BST - Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (mixed phase)

BST-2A4D appears as light toned speckles over dark purple and dark gray. The texture is somewhat feathery to moderately rough. The lighter tones are the tamarack, and the dark purple is black spruce. The dark gray is due to shadows. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The tamarack dominates over the black spruce in this polygon. The photo was taken in October 1996. Ancillary 1988 photos give clearer indication of the tamarack.



BST-1A4M appears as dark blue-magenta, pink, and pale blue and a mix of fine and somewhat rough textures. The dark blue-magenta is the black spruce, and the pink and pale blue are the tamarack. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The black spruce and tamarack share equal dominance in this polygon.



Area Report for BST Map Unit
Polygons: 224
Hectares: 938
Acres: 2,318
Average size: 4 hectares, 10 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for BST and BSL Map Units
The Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (mixed phase) Map Unit was assessed with the Black Spruce/Labrador Tea Poor Swamp (evergreen phase) Map Unit. BST and BSL were assessed at 77% producers' accuracy (confidence interval 69-85%) and 89% users' accuracy (confidence interval 82-96%). Errors in producers' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Units BSAS and TA. Users' accuracy is considered adequate as mapped.